

Good Morning respective members of the committee,

My name is Akshay Patel and I own a package store in Hamden. As you know, I and thousands others are opposed of Bill 5021, "Competitive alcoholic liquor pricing and hours of operation for permittees."

For years we have been hearing that if this bill is passed, Connecticut will gain 8 Million dollars in revenue. But those same people won't mention how many jobs and businesses we will lose after the bill passes. It is estimated that 7000 jobs will be lost in Connecticut. These newly unemployed people will then be dependent on the state to collect unemployment compensation. On average, CT pays \$1500 a month for unemployment. Multiply 1500 dollars by the 7000 jobs lost and you get 10.5 million dollars taken out of the state's budget. And that's only for one month. Who knows how long these people will be unemployed for? It doesn't make sense to me that we are willing to lose all those jobs and money just so we can be like other states in US.

With liquor stores closed on Sundays, if someone really needs a drink and forgot to stock up on Saturday, they go to a bar or restaurant either by themselves or with family. Either place they go, their bill will be a lot higher than buying a six-pack from a package store on a Sunday. I guarantee you that the sales lost at the bars and restaurants will be lot higher than the sales gained because package stores are open on Sunday.

I understand that Gov. Malloy has a vision in which Connecticut residents will not cross the border to buy their alcoholic beverages. The first step to that vision is to decrease alcohol excise tax. Connecticut residents are not crossing borders because package stores are closed on Sundays, but because everything is cheaper across the border. They can buy alcohol, gas and groceries all in one trip and save a substantial amount of money.

The Medallion system, along with the liquor permit limit increasing from 2 to 9 per organization, is going to encourage more and more chain stores to open up liquor stores all over Connecticut. However, the increasing amount of liquor stores is not going to increase the amount of alcohol consumption in Connecticut; it's just going to shift sales for our stores to big box chain stores, eventually putting us all out of business. They are trying to fade us out just like they did to mom and pop drug stores and hardware stores. Most of the owners of these chain stores don't even live in our state or even in this country. But I bet more than half of the package store owners in Connecticut are in this building right now.

Politicians who made the blue laws cared about small businesses. These mom and pop store owners made their living, paid taxes and paid for their kids' education from their small business. Most of these kids are now doctors, engineers or scientists doing something good for this country. Making these chain store owners richer is not going to help this country's

economy. Most of the money they make doesn't even stay in this country. The money generated by Connecticut's small business owners gets reinvested in Connecticut's future. If you have any interest in keeping Connecticut the great state it is, you will not pass this bill. Thank you for your time.